

Stanislaus River Operations Group

Meeting Notes

Date: July 22, 2010 (Phone Mtg)

Attendees

Chelsea Stewart, Liz Kiteck, Liz Vasquez, Randi Field and Carol Nicolos, USBR; Barb Byrne and Rhonda Reed, NMFS; J.D. Wikert, FWS; Kari Kyler, SWRCB; and Tim Heyne, DFG.

Brief Description of Operations by Reclamation:

Goodwin releases were at 550 cfs at the end of June to meet Delta flow requirements. Flows dropped back to 250 cfs at the beginning of July then ramped up to 350 around the middle of the month; they were then reduced to 325 cfs on the 19th and 300 cfs on the 21st. Since the end of June, flows above the 250 cfs minimum flow requirement have been released in order to meet Ripon DO or the temperature requirements at Orange Blossom Bridge, or both. Stanislaus River instream temperatures are holding below the 7 day average daily maximum temperature of 65° – current temperatures are holding at 63°. Right now Reclamation doesn't see any future needs to increase the flows from current levels through August. Reclamation just received the New Melones and Tulloch reservoir temperature profile and will analyze it and email an update to everyone when finished followed by updated models.

July SOG meeting: The group was asked whether this conference call was sufficient to take care of current SOG business and updates, or whether the group preferred to reschedule an in-person July meeting for next week. The consensus was to have the next in-person meeting on August 18, per the third Wednesday of the month schedule.

NMFS Updates:

Gravel Plan: NMFS reported that it has received the Stanislaus Gravel Augmentation Plan from Reclamation. The plan provides a good start to meeting the gravel augmentation requirements of the NMFS RPA, and the plan is sufficient to satisfy the planning deadline of the BiOp. The plan included a table of current and future projects as well as a preliminary discussion of monitoring. The report will be updated annually to document progress and planning to meet the gravel augmentation targets.

It was reported that there will be a year's delay for the Honolulu Bar project.

Annual review of the implementation of the FWS and NMFS Opinions: NMFS & FWS will be conducting a joint annual review of the BiOps in early November. There will be a request of the SOG group to come up with a list of "lessons learned", i.e., what worked and what didn't for the review.

A question was asked if the review process will be public or agency only process. It was unclear whether the entire review will be public but there will be an expectation to notify the public of what came from the review. NMFS plans to report back to the SOG with additional information on the annual review such as what information will be needed from SOG and if the meeting(s) will be public.

Next Meeting

Date: Wednesday, 18 August 2010

Location: Central Valley Operations Office
3310 El Camino Ave.
Sacramento, CA 95821

Room: 302

Time: 1300

Notes by: Carol Nicolos and Liz Vasquez